

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5490

S E C R E T JIDDA 5364

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: JOSHUA MKOMO'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: (A) ROME 12495, (B) STATE 191621, (C) STATE 190448

1. ON MORNING AUGUST 3 I DISCUSSED NKOMO VISIT (FOR THIRD TIME) WITH FOREIGN OFFICE UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS MANSOURI (I HAD PREVIOUSLY SENT HIM BACKGROUND MATERIAL PROVIDED REFTEL C). I INFORMED MANSOURI THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS WE COULD IN FACILITATING THE NKOMO VISIT BUT THAT MR. NKOMO DESIRES THAT WE REMAIN IN THE BACKGROUND. IN ANY CASE, THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE CANNOT DO TO EASE THE VISIT. FIRSTLY, THE NKOMO PARTY NEEDS VISAS WHICH THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN ROME HAS YET TO ISSUE. MANSOURI SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO INQUIRY FROM SAUDI EMBASSY ROME CONCERNING THE MATTER.

2. I INFORMED MANSOURI THAT SECONDLY WE WOULD NOT BE MEETING MR. NKOMO AT AIRPORTS(AT HIS REQUEST) AND BECAUSE OF TIGHT HOTEL SITUATION WE COULD NOT FIND APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS WITHOUT SAG INTERVENTION. WOULD THE SAG ASSIST THE NKOMO PARTY?

3. LASTLY, AND MOST IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IS THE QUESTION OF A CALL ON KING KHALID -- THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE VISIT. CAN

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THIS BE ARRANGED? MANSOURI, WHO HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO

DIGEST OUR BACKGROUND PAPER, SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER IMMEDIATELY.

4. I FULLY CONCUR WITH THE ADVICE CONTAINED REFTEL B THAT NKOMO PARTY NOT RPT NOT COME TO SAUDI ARABIA WUTHOUT VISAS OR SOME PRIOR ASSURANCE OF OFFICIAL SAG WELCOME. I HAVE JUST BEEN

IN TOUCH WITH MANSOURI (1100 LOCAL AUGUST 4).

HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO TELL ME. I INFORMED HIM THAT AS FAR AS WE KNEW THE GROUP WAS ADHERING TO ITS SCHEDULE AND WOULD BE ARRIVING TONIGHT ON AIR FRANCE AT 2055. I SAID WE HAD GIVEN NKOMO PARTY THE ADVICE THAT THEY NOT COME TO SAUDI ARABIA WITHOUT VISAS. HE SAID, "ABSOLUTELY, THEY SHOULD HAVE VISAS."

WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

5. SUGGEST DEPT PASS TO EMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATELY.

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